

GALA SOCIAL ENTERTAINMENTS KEEP SOCIETY IN WASHINGTON BUSY

Secretary and Mrs. Hughes Give Series of Five Dinner Parties—Women Beautifully Gowned at Reception in British Embassy.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

As usual on the Saturday following Thanksgiving, Washington is a deserted village to-day—and for once Washington is glad of it. Though, as a matter of fact, it is not quite so deserted as usual. Usually the Congressional crowd hasn't really settled down for the winter, as the regular session is still a few days off, and the other official sets are rather numerous still to see "the game"—the Army-Navy football game, which is to Washington the game par excellence of the year—or are taking advantage of the last chance to play before settling down for the winter.

But this year, with Congress practically in continuous session since last April, and the conference visitors and the soldier guests and the Armistice Day celebration, the pace has been so fast and furious that society here is glad of a chance to draw a long breath after such a mad whirl as it has been in for several weeks past.

True, it is "viewing with alarm" the findings of some of the brightest stars from its horizon. Gen. Baron Jacques, the distinguished Belgian soldier, sailed last week; Briand is gone, Beatty is gone so far as Washington is concerned, he left on Wednesday, headed for Canada, whence he is to sail next Wednesday; Poch and Diaz are both touring the country under the auspices of the American Legion, and Poch at least has about said "good-bye" to Washington, though he is likely to pass through the capital on his way to New York, whence he sails about two weeks hence. Altogether it rather looks as if Uncle Sam's very nice party was breaking up. But, on the other hand, the capital is pointing with pride to a large pile of social wood sawed so early in the season through the common sense and tact of the mistress of the White House, and especially to what looks like a solution of the problem of "official calls" which has been a bugbear of increasing terror for many past Administrations by inaugurating "collective calling."

Cabinet Wednesday Once a Month.

Then a few days ago there came an official announcement—highly official, since it came from the State Department—that the women of the Cabinet would observe "Cabinet Wednesday" (an institution in Washington during the season for more Administrations than most of us care to think about) on only one Wednesday in each month during the season, and that would be the first Wednesday except in January when it would be the second, this in order not to bring it too close to the White House.

New Year's reception, which is to be received this year (on Monday, January 2), and at which the Cabinet women would be in line, along with the Harding and the Coolidge. And the whole problem of calling and receiving, so far as the Administration circle is concerned, was at once reduced to a sensible and satisfactory basis. And that is enough for any White House chateleine to have accomplished in order to assure her of a high place in the social history of the capital.

Looking back over the feverish activity of the last few weeks, one realizes that some sort of relief was absolutely necessary if the Cabinet women were to survive. Normally the burden of official entertaining, especially when it is a question of entertaining distinguished foreign visitors, rests most heavily on the Secretaries of State (and the Under Secretary), War and Navy—and, of course, their wives. Secretary and Mrs. Hughes and Secretary and Mrs. Denby have done their duty nobly. Secretary Weeks has given one big luncheon—a man's luncheon at a club—for the series of dinners that have borne the brunt of the official entertaining so far as the War Department is concerned.

Secretary and Mrs. Hughes have arranged for the delegates and their associated groups with two this week—one Monday and one Wednesday. There have been five of them altogether—one for the American delegates and four for the foreigners, taking in in installments and entertaining at comparatively small parties—about twenty-five each time—which are at once easier to manage and make for pleasant, more intimate companies. Then, of course, there was that wonderful big reception at the Pan-American Building, when the Hughes gave for the entire body of visitors—delegates and their delegations—and to which they invited practically all of Washington society—official and diplomatic, at least, with the cream of the residential.

Every night that they haven't been having company Secretary and Mrs. Hughes have been being company; some nights they have done both, as, for instance, last Wednesday, when, after entertaining the last of their series of dinners, they went down to the biggest official crush the conference has brought forth, when the Commissioners of the District of Columbia gave a brilliant reception at the National Museum in honor of the whole conference personnel—the conferees and their groups of advisers, observers, experts, etc.

The Hughes dinners have set an example which some of the others have been glad to follow, of asking half a dozen smart official women without their husbands—to balance the preponderance of men in the foreign delegations, comparatively few of whom brought ladies over with them. So Secretary and Mrs. Hughes had at their dinner parties such women as Mrs. Frelinghuysen, Mrs. Longworth, Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Mrs. Harry S. New-

York, Mrs. John Jacob Rogers and other popular Senatorial and Congressional women, leaving their husbands to dine where and how they could.

Party at British Embassy.

Probably the most interesting party of the week—at least the one that everybody wanted to be asked to—was the one the British Ambassador and Lady Geddes gave at the Embassy Tuesday night—a rather large dinner (about fifty), with the Vice-President and Mrs. Coolidge as the ranking guests, and the Secretary of State and Mrs. Hughes, Lord and Lady Lee, Mr. Balfour, Lord Beatty—really as many of the leading delegates, diplomats and Cabinet members and their wives as were not dining elsewhere or themselves giving dinners—and a splendid reception.

All the official dinner parties of the evening, and some of the unofficial ones, adjourned to the embassy. Secretary and Mrs. Denby, for instance, were entertaining in honor of Admiral Acton of the Royal Italian navy, and their party arrived at the embassy about 10:30. Secretary Hoover was entertaining a group of Congressmen; the Third Assistant Secretary of State was entertaining in honor of M. and Mrs. Viviani—on a series of small but distinguished companies that they have been having; and there were perhaps half a dozen others that drifted into the embassy along between 10 o'clock and midnight.

It was a particularly brilliant colorful party, where all the women were beautifully gowned. For instance, one of the handsomest bits of bric-a-brac decorating the rooms was the tall sergeant of dragoons who stood at attention in the doorway in scarlet uniform and towering boots. Taking it all in all it was an effective picture on which the portrait of Queen Victoria, which occupied place of honor on the stairway, smiled down.

The Ambassador and Lady Geddes received their guests at the entrance to the double drawing room, where palms and clusters of huge chrysanthemums made effective decorations. In line with the hosts were Mr. Balfour and Lord Lee of Farnham and Lady Lee. Lady Geddes wore a lovely gown of orchid velvet, gracefully draped, and cloth of silver. She had diamonds in her hair and about her throat. Lady Lee's costume was of cloth of gold with gold colored tulle and worn with it a magnificent necklace of diamonds and pearls, and a splendid tiara of diamonds.

It had seemed the previous week at Secretary and Mrs. Hughes's reception that never had there been so many smart gowns and interesting people, but it seemed as if the costumes here were even more interesting, and the people very much the same, except that Mrs. Balfour, the youngest looking man of his years who has been in Washington for some time, was not at the dinner party, having already started on his tour through the West and South. On the whole the most stunning—and the most startling—gown in the room seemed to be Mrs. Peter Goulet Gerry's. She was a wonderful vision of silver and delicate orchid tones. Her gown seemed to be of silver cloth, but it was a weave that is new to

me, and hung in the soft rich folds of chiffon velvet. The draperies were arranged to show the reverse of delicate orchid colors. There was not a great deal of the gown above the waist, and she held in place by strings of pearls over the shoulders. Mrs. Gerry wore orchid hostery and silver slippers, and when she left put on a wrap of the softest chiffon. Senator and Mrs. Gerry came with her mother, Mrs. Richard Townsend, whose gown was black and gold brocade, and whose pearls and diamonds were splendid. Mr. Constantin Brun, the Danish Minister, came with their party.

Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt wore splendid diamonds too, and a gown of white and silver, all aglitter with sequins. And Mrs. J. Borden Harriman was strikingly handsome in an unusual costume of green velvet distinctly medieval in effect, with a band of gold lace placed low on the hips to simulate a girdle, and long flowing sleeves which were detached from the gown and hung from bands of gold lace encircling the arm just above the elbow.

Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., was a dainty and attractive little figure in white velvet with some fine diamonds. And Mrs. Leslie Craigie, wife of the Secretary of the Embassy, was charming in rose pink velvet made en train, draped and strung with pearls, while Mrs. John P. Wilkins was notably smart in white garnished with long jet fringe.

Many Black Costumes.

There were, as there seem to be at all the parties this winter, a very great many black costumes—black velvet, black and silver and black and gold and black jet—tons of it! So that one felt that the many brilliant uniforms, the British splashes of scarlet and the others in varying blues and grays with plenty of gold lace, for relieving the sombre effect of so much black on the women.

Mrs. Harding has been having box parties at the concerts in the afternoon and she and the President have put in several evenings lately at the theatre, taking with them the friends who had been dining with them at the White House. Nearly always they have people staying to dinner or luncheon most informally. Wednesday night they had Senator and Mrs. Capper to dinner and took them afterward to see "Kiki," in which Mrs. Harding's cousin, Saxon Kling, has a part.

One of the most thoroughly enjoyed of Thanksgiving parties was the one that Mrs. Henry B. Rea had at Walter Reed Hospital on Thursday. She was Red Cross field director at the Walter Reed during the war and for many months after the armistice was signed, and there are, alas! many of the men of her time still there. That reminds me that Miss Natalie Dulles—Mrs. and Mrs. Lane's young niece, who was one of the student nurses under Mrs. Rea—has gone to Syria—sort of medical or nursing missionary. She took a much more thorough course than most of the girls who went out there, fired by the war enthusiasm, and eventually graduated and got her diploma.

It seems rather an irony of fate that at the time that the delegates from the Allies are here in conference, and being lavishly—almost royally—entertained,

Baron Edmund von Thermann, a veteran of the war, should be here trying to gather up the fragments of what was once the Imperial German embassy, and making ready to reestablish German diplomatic representation in Washington once more. He arrived early in the week, accredited as Charge d'Affaires, to represent his country till better times come—when he expects to stay on as counsellor of the embassy, under the new Ambassador, who will not be named just yet.

Baron von Thermann comes from a family that for generations has been producing eminent jurists. His grandfather was a friend of Goethe, and his chief concern at present seems to be to get the embassy in such shape as to make it as comfortable as possible for his wife and three children, whom he expects to join him before Christmas, and to avoid anything that could possibly be construed as German propaganda.

There were a couple of debuts on Thanksgiving Day—as there always are—not of girls of more than local interest, however. There were the usual "Thanksgiving week balls"—the "International ball" of the Robert E. Lee Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, which gained rather more than the usual notice because Gen. Foch and Mr. Balfour and a few others appeared in the ballroom for a short time toward the close of the evening; the Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital ball—an annual Thanksgiving eve event, for a local charity in which the "Cave Dwellers" of Washington are chiefly interested. Except for a sprinkling of visiting celebrities, that, too, was very much as usual. And there was the Pan American mass at St. Patrick's in the morning, for which the officials would very largely be forgotten, and the Navy Relief ball in the evening, for which the official world even more largely forgot.

Sometimes between the Pan American mass and the Navy Relief ball it is safe to assume that Washington very generally dines, although there were few big parties. Secretary and Mrs. Hoover did have a dinner party on that day for some of the Chinese delegates, and Secretary and Mrs. Davis entertained a party of friends at dinner. But in a general way it was a quiet, restful Thanksgiving Day after a strenuous fortnight. There were no parleys or conferences of any sort.

To Celebrate Tenth Anniversary With Fair

The Junior auxiliary of St. Christopher's Guild of St. Mary's Free Hospital for Children soon will celebrate its tenth anniversary, and although it does not come until the early part of next year, arrangements are being made to hold a fair and sale on the afternoon of April 23 in the drawing room of the home of Mrs. Edward R. Stettinius, 1021 Park avenue. Various committees are being formed, and every effort is being made to have it a gala celebration.

Miss Amy Bowring is the junior chairman of the guild and Miss Barbara Brown secretary. There are 114 junior members, many of whom are doing active work in the hospital.

Winter Ball in Aid of Loomis Sanatorium

A fixture that has come in recent years to help give the season in society some established form is the winter ball, which is to take place in the Plaza on December 15 for the free bed fund of the Loomis Sanatorium for the treatment of tuberculosis.

The ball will be under the supervision of the Junior branch of the sanatorium. Mrs. Joel Ellis Fisher, Jr., is chairman of the ball committee. The members of the committee are Mrs. James Lenox Banks, Jr.; Douglas M. Moffat and J. T. Johnston Mall and the Misses Adrienne M. Iselin, Sylvia G. Van Rensselaer, Genevieve Clendenen, Cornelia Landon and Christina M. Nichols.

The patronesses are Mrs. George Blumenthal, Frederic E. Lewis, John Henry Towner, Frank Hunter Puter, Robert Hude Nelson, Henry White, Hermann Biggs, Edward N. Breitung, John Henry Hammond, Howard Carroll, James Herman Alrich, Lewis S. Morris, Verlinor I. Schiff, Clarence M. Hyde, M. Taylor Fyne, Jr.; John Magee, James B. Taylor, Philip Rhineland 3d, Edward B. Boies, Edwards Spencer, Brady Martin, Howland Russell, Henry C. Seawards, J. Todhunter Thompson and McCook Knox and the Misses Lavina R. Graves and Mabel Choate.

'Barber of Seville' For Musical School

A special performance of "The Barber of Seville" is to be given in the Metropolitan Opera House on the afternoon of December 16, with Tita Ruffo in the cast, under the auspices of the Greenwich House Musical School. Tickets may be had from Mrs. John L. Howard at 205 West Fifty-seventh street.

The organizers of this special performance of one of the most popular operas in the repertoire of the Metropolitan Opera Company include Mrs. W. L. McFarland, James Harvey Robinson, John L. Howard, Elsie P. Cronkite, Wendell T. Bush, Rufus Cole, H. L. Cammann, Chalmers Clifton, Walter Elbas, Walter Evans, Jr., Walter Lewisohn, M. H. McMahon, Daniel Gregory Mason, Lowell Mason, Skeffington F. Norton, M. V. Simphovich, J. Walter Spalding, Otto Sussman and Samuel Swift and the Misses Gertrude Watson, Marion Curtis, Helen Codling and Frances Brundage, who are members of the board of managers of the musical school.

A benefit of this magnitude is in keeping with the policy of Greenwich House Music School, which aims to be identified with the best that the musical world affords. In spite of the fact that it is officially a part of the Greenwich Settlement House, it has its own problems and the necessity of finding its own financial support. The appeal through the opera benefit is imperative, in order that funds may be provided to meet the yearly deficit that accrues because adequate equipment and an experienced faculty exceed for maintenance the amount obtained from tuition alone.

Miss Farrar to Sing in 'La Navarraise' This Week

"Tristan and Isolde" will open the third week of opera to-morrow, with Mmes. Matzenauer and Gordon and Messrs. Sembach and Whitehead in the cast.

Massenet's one act opera, "La Navarraise," Mr. Gatti-Casazza's revival, will be presented Wednesday, with Miss Farrar for the first time in the title role. With her will sing Messrs. Crimi, Rothler and others, Mr. Wolff conducting. "La Navarraise" will be preceded by "Cavalleria Rusticana," sung by Mmes. Ponselle, Perini and Berat and Messrs. Crimi and Chalmers, Mr. Moranzoni conducting.

"La Boheme" will be given at a special matinee on Thursday afternoon, with Mmes. Alda and D'Arle (Musette), her first appearance, and Messrs. Crimi, De Luca, Djur, Mardones, Reschiglian, Audisio, Leonhardt and Ananiam, Mr. Papi conducting.

Other operas next week will be: "Tosca," Thursday, with Mmes. Jeritza and Arden and Aureliano Pertile making his first appearance with the company, and Mr. Scotti; "Lucia" Friday, with Mmes. Galli-Curci and Messrs. Gigli and Danieles; "Carmen" Saturday, with Miss Farrar and Mmes. Sundellus, Messrs. Martini and De Luca, and "Manon Lescaut" Sunday night.

At to-night's concert a Verdi-Puccini programme will be given, with Mmes. Chase, Peralta, Dalosy and Perini, Messrs. Harrold, Meader, Laurenti and Martino and the chorus and orchestra.

Classic Dancing Feature Of Double Benefit Event

A performance of classic dancing is one of the most attractive of the offerings for charity in the immediate future. The income from the performance is to be divided between the New York Home for Homeless Boys and the Book Committee on Children's Libraries. The scene is to be the Salvo Theatre, the time December 6 and the attractions, Miss Ruth Page, who was premier danseuse of the Bolsh Ballet Intime; Carlos Salzedo, harpist, and Hanna von Volkenhoven. The patronesses of the double benefit include several hundred well known matrons and young women.

Miss Page made her first success in the "Birth of the Infanta" with the Ballet Intime. She has been with Mmes. Pavlova for some time. Mrs. John Lewis Griffith is chairman of the Book Committee on Children's Libraries and Mrs. Philip A. S. Franklin is chairman of the women's auxiliary of the New York Home for Homeless Boys. They are being assisted by Mmes. Lewis B. Gawtry, J. Horace Harding, William Warner Hoppin, Jr., T. Tleston Wells, Hamilton Platt Egan, Herbert L. Pratt, Samuel Sloan and Carl Tucker. Mr. and Mrs. Booth Tarkington also are lending their support to the entertainment.

American Art Is Well Represented in London

Staff Correspondence of THE NEW YORK HERALD.

London, Nov. 16.—American art is well represented at the eleventh exhibition of the National Portrait Society at the Grafton Galleries by James McNeill Whistler's "Arrangement in White and Black." Critics consider this full length portrait of Lady Meux, in a black velvet gown and white fur cloak against a sombre background, one of the artist's most distinguished paintings. American art holds one other place at the galleries in a rather sketchy oil portrait of a woman and baby by Cecilia Beaux.

Of the newer American art there is none. But the American visitors, of whom there has been a large number, find the spirit of their independent artists manifested even in this dignified collection of British portraits. Carefully isolated in the back room of the gallery it may be, but there it is nevertheless.

Sacha Guitry leads the band. Against a brilliant blue and yellow striped background his "Yvonne Printemps" makes a pitiful appearance with a de-away look in her eyes, a tubercular chest, protruding chin and upturned nose. The portrait is not flattering, to say the least. Lucien Guitry fares as badly. White hair, tan face, purple coat and green background rob the picture of all harmony. But this is only one of its shortcomings. Fortunately for Monsieur Guitry, he has already been portrayed in the first room by Oswald Birley.

The Greenwich Village tradition is further upheld by Kitty Shannon. The queer postures, bold eyes and blank expressions of her water color figures prepare one not too harshly for Jean Gabriel Domergue's even more curious similes of long red fingernails, enormous earrings and lofty collars.

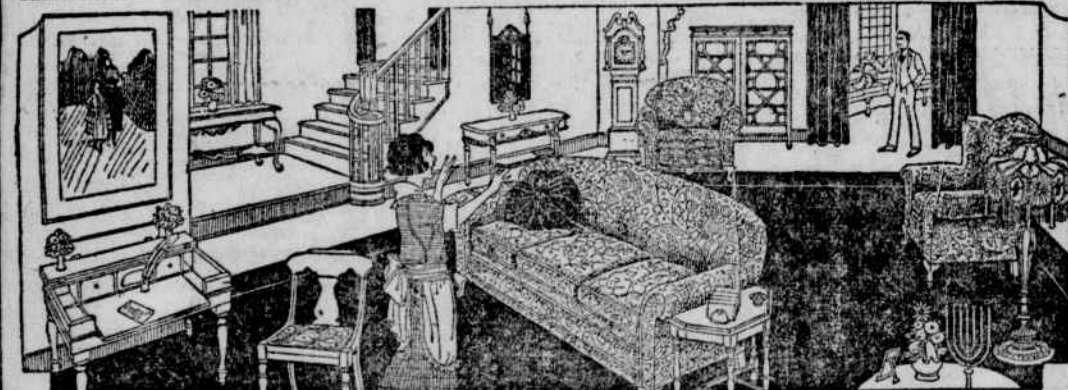
Alvaro Guevara, the Chilean artist, makes another departure. His portraits of Viscountess Cunzon, Lady Cunard and Philip Gardner, Esq., can hardly be said to form a pleasant contrast to the more common type. The figures are drawn in harsh lines against gaudy backgrounds of curious perspective. The faces are hard and expressionless.

With the exception of Domergue's more or less shocking ballet girls and Edmund Dulac's fantasy of Charles Ricketts and Charles Shannon as medieval saints most of the other paintings in the exhibition follow the conservative style. One of the most beautiful of these is P. A. Laszlo's portrait of Madame Edwards, wife of the Chilean Minister, in Spanish costume. E. Barnard Lindt has contributed a graceful half-length portrait of Mrs. "Etta" Strenuous Darling and an equally interesting study of Lady Diana Duff Cooper reading in bed. Among the portraits of well known persons are pleasant ones of Lord Robert Cecil and Mr. Lloyd George by Sir William Orpen.

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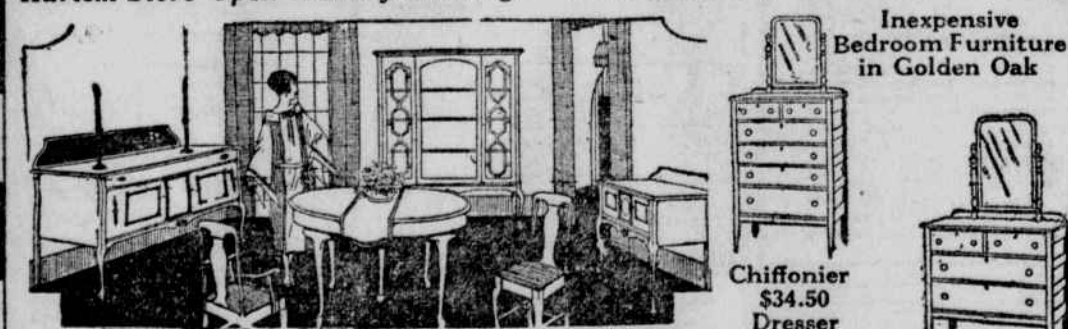
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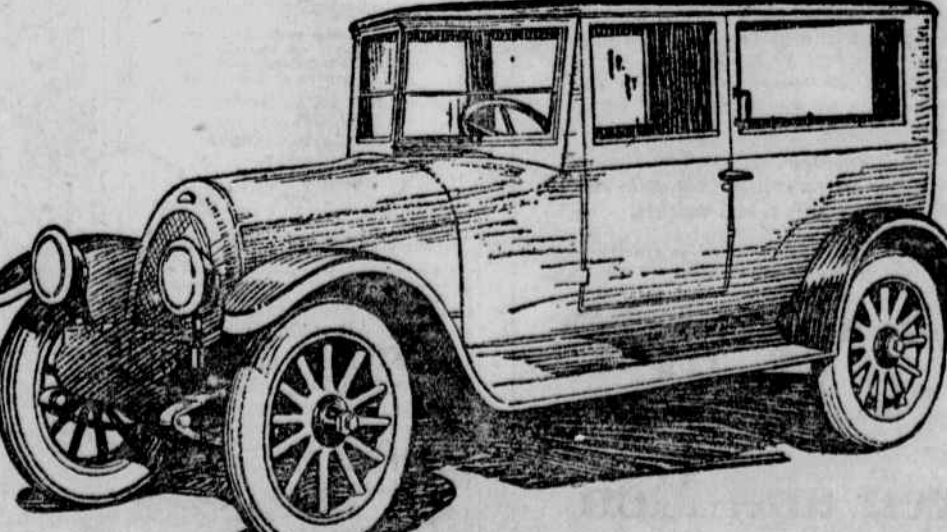
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